



## The need for digital education, the problem in Mexico that nobody anticipated

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**D**igitalization in our lives has been a hot topic over the last 20 years for all the educational institutions around the world. We have seen that every area in the planet has attempted to make different kinds of progress according to their possibilities. However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the digital revolution became a severe problem for all the peo-

ple who still had not made noticeable progress on that issue.

More efficient services in administrative areas and pedagogical strategies are the areas that have tried to incorporate digitalization with the objective of allowing students around the world to keep on studying despite the pandemic context.

The educational sector faces different problems that worsened during the two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Mexico in the bottom

According to the survey to measure the impact caused by COVID-19, conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), 2.3 million people in the age of 3 to 28 did not enroll in the school year 2021 - 2022 due to reasons directly related to the current pandemic, while 2.9 million people did not do it due to economic reasons.

At the beginning, the Secretary of Public Education of Mexico (SEP) promoted different strategies like "Learn at Home" or "Strategies for online education: Transformation and Innovation in Mexico". However, it is a fact that they were not enough to stop the problems that the educational sector faces regarding the global health crisis.



### BENEFITS OF DIGITALIZATION IN EDUCATION

#### Improvement of the results in the classroom

Digitalization encourages productivity and efficiency among teachers and students.

#### Experience also improves

Digitalization promotes the involvement of students in educational processes, which encourages retention and the sequence of their studies.

#### Dynamics based on coexistence

By having direct communication lines; teachers, staff, and students are able to have more effective communication.

#### Digital tools

Students develop a sense of belonging to their communities.

#### Continuous innovation

Developing a digital educational context allows the implementation of accurate innovation processes between students, teachers, and parents.

### The main weaknesses of the educational system in Mexico during the pandemic



School dropouts



Low-quality in learning processes.



Gaps in the access to education.

### Consequences are everywhere

De acuerdo a diversos pedagogos y especialistas en pedagogía y procesos de aprendizaje se cree que las principales debilidades que enfrenta la sociedad mexicana son: la deserción escolar, la calidad de aprendizaje, y más importante el derecho a la educación que se vio afectado. Este es un factor importante que causa un daño severo al bienestar y futuro de las nuevas generaciones.

En México la inversión para implementar modelos de aprendizaje a distancia ha sido notable. Para los años 2020 - 2021, más de 450 millones de pesos se destinaron al programa "Learn at Home", por lo que es necesario continuar con el desarrollo de políticas y soluciones basadas en las posibilidades reales del país para evitar que los estudiantes mexicanos dejen de asistir a la escuela.

### Education is not an expense, but an investment

In Latin America and the Caribbean, different inequality gaps and low productivity levels became characteristics of that region. Those problems undoubtedly have a negative impact on the living conditions of all the people, and the pandemic only contributed to the increase of those gaps.

According to Norbert Schady, an expert in Economics, the entire world is going through a crisis which was not completely caused by economic matters, as we noticed a decrease in students all over South America. The ex-

pert mentions that in "regular" conditions (only suffering from economic crisis), the family incomes decrease in tandem with the salaries offered to children and teenagers, which becomes an opportunity to prefer going to school.

Considering the pandemic and a context where salaries did not decrease only, but also disappeared; and the increase on rates to have access to education due to the implementation of online and hybrid models, the inequality gap became bigger.

### Opportunities for the education in Mexico

With regards to the report "Who is the leader in wireless coverage in Mexico", provided by the Federal Institute of Telecommunications (IFT); 2,043 municipalities out of a total number of 2,457 in the country, count with 3G and 4G mobile coverage; which represents 83.2% of the total number of municipalities in Mexico.

Assuming that 83.2% of municipalities count with different internet services, authorities in the country could develop projects to assist students using those kinds of communication services. It is a fact that this con-

text shows big disadvantages due to the high expenses to develop it. However, institutions like Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, decided to assist students in Mexico through the program "Supportive Contribution to CMT Technology and Connectivity". The objective of the program is to spread the use of this service, as well as providing devices to surf the web in order to promote the development of welfare among the families who need assistance, and also to connect their realities to improve their future.